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Imagery analysis report

Unit Upgrading and Construction Activity at Jinan Airfield, Jinan Military Region, China (S)

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IAR-0025/81 25X1

MARCH 1981

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UNIT UPGRADING AND CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY AT JINAN AIRFIELD, JINAN MILITARY REGION, CHINA (S)

1. [] Recent unit upgrading, as well as construction activity extending from mid-1977 through late 1980, continues to point to Jinan Airfield [] as a key air facility within China. Principal units at Jinan Airfield include the headquarters, two fighter regiments, and the independent squadron of the Chinese Air Force (CAF) 12th Division. Additionally, administrative/logistical support is provided by the 4th Independent Squadron (IS), as well as an element of the Civilian Air Administration, China (CAAC).¹ The activities outlined in this report indicate that this airfield will continue to occupy an important role within Jinan Military Region (MR) and the CAF command structure as the Chinese continue to improve their air capabilities and facilities.²

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2. [] Imagery of [] revealed the recent addition of HOUND helicopters to the inventory of the airfield. The 13 HOUND observed on that date are believed to represent previously unlocated CAF 4th IS assets. This unit augmentation, if confirmed, would bring the 4th IS's complement of aircraft (a mixture of CAB, COLT, and HOUND) in line with other independent squadrons throughout China.

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3. [] Initial indications of the impending arrival of the helicopters were observed in August 1980 when construction of a heliport, as well as new aircraft hardstands, had commenced. The heliport area, consisting of 15 square pads and one circular pad, is off the north end of the main runway. Construction on 15 additional fighter hardstands, which may be related to CAF 12th Division alert aircraft, was begun shortly after that of the heliport; however, the two areas were both completed and in operation by [] (Figure 1). A new administration/bar-racks complex, immediately west of the heliport, may be related, though probably not exclusively, to the 4th IS augmentation. The complex, under construction since mid-1977, appeared to be in the final stages of construction on [] (Figure 1).

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4. (S/D) Additional construction activity at the airfield included the completion of a new hardened bunker on the south end of the airfield near the control tower. Construction of the bunker was initiated in February 1980 and completed prior to [] (Figures 2 and 3). The bunker consists of three separate cylindrical tubes with an overall length of [] and a width of []. This cut-and-cover facility is probably employed in command and control/alert crew operations. The completed bunker is earth covered and has two entrances, one at each end of the structure.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(TSR) All applicable KEYHOLE imagery acquired between [] was used in the preparation of this report.

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DOCUMENTS

1. DIRNSA. TIPS/COINS Data Base, *CHDOF-PRC Disposition of Air Forces, as of 27 Jan 81* (TOP SECRET [])

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2. NPIC, [] IAR-0165/80, *Summary of Air Activity, Jinan Military Region, China:* [] (S), Dec 80 (TOP SECRET [])

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [] Asian Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, []

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